

News conference notice: Wednesday, Nov. 25, 2015 at 1 PM - St. Mark's Anglican Church accepts refugee family of five!

St. Mark's Anglican Church, 203 Logy Bay Road, has accepted a refugee family of five.

The Church was notified last week and signed the documents on Tuesday, Nov. 24th that matched them with a Syrian family of five for sponsorship. This is a partnership with the Association for New Canadians. The family, a husband, wife and three young children, currently reside in a refugee camp in Lebanon. It is expected to be three to six months before the family arrives in St. John's.

St. Mark's will receive more details about the family as the process unfolds. In order to be in a position to sponsor a refugee family the parishioners at St. Mark's had to raise \$20,000 toward the family's first year expenses. They also have to provide a transition team to help the family integrate into the community. More than 20 parishioners have offered to serve on this team which will be responsible for everything from helping them fill out government forms to finding housing and furnishing it.

The Rev. Mark Nichols is overseeing the refugee family project at St. Mark's and will meet with the media at 1:00PM on Wednesday, November 25th, 2015 to discuss the details.

The Reverend Mark Nichols has been ordained as a priest in the Anglican Church of Canada for ten years. Prior to that he served for twenty years in the Canadian Forces. During that time he served as a peacekeeper with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force in the Middle East (1984-1985), during which he spent some time in Syria. He also served with the United Nations Force in Cyprus in 1986. Father Nichols retired from military service in 2001 at the rank of Sergeant.

Known as "The Friendly Church" St. Mark's prides itself on being an inclusive, affirming Church community that follows Jesus' example of meeting people where they are. St. Mark's mission has always been to create a community that welcomes and embraces all people.

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